

Kentucky GIS Resources & Info

Geographic Information Advisory Council

Thursday, July 15th



Definition of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

GIS is a collection of computer hardware, software, and geographic data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. On the most basic level, GIS is used as computer cartography, i.e. mapping, however, the real power in GIS is through using spatial and statistical methods to analyze attribute and geographic information. Fundamentally, it is used to answer questions and make decisions.

Update on the Commonwealth's use of GIS

For years, Kentucky has been accurately acknowledged as one of the best-mapped states in the Nation. In the past two decades, major efforts have been made to compile this "mapping," using state-of-the-art Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies. These efforts have ranked Kentucky State Government near the top in the Nation in terms of successful enterprise GIS Implementations. As a result, agencies leveraging these resources have improved their effectiveness and efficiency while being able to view the immediate and long-term effects of their actions or proposed actions. The application of GIS provides decision support on issues regarding land and property use analysis, policy and regulation implementation, boundary designations, protection of natural resources, infrastructure planning and maintenance, and provisions for public safety and event response.

- Kentucky currently maintains a nationally recognized, publicly available Enterprise GIS accessible as interactive maps, downloadable data and baseline information.
- Kentucky enters 2010 with over 30 years experience in GIS, beginning with Governor Julian Carroll's "Lands Unsuitable for Mining Project".
- The Kentucky Geography Network monthly generates from 5.5 to 7.5 million web server requests from upwards of 36,000 unique visitors accessing interactive maps, retrieving data or doing data research.
- Consultants, investors, economic development specialists, environmental protection entities, local governments, and a host of other people utilize Kentucky's services as they look to invest, locate, or visit the Commonwealth.
- Kentucky's statewide Water & Wastewater Infrastructure, Mining, Transportation, Recreation, and Geology GIS data resources are unmatched in the nation.
- Current investment in GIS by state government is at record lows. Under the previous administration, funding was accomplished through grants and critical GIS expertise in many Cabinets, was lost and not replaced.

History of GIS in Kentucky (Presentation)

A brief description of where and how GIS started and evolved in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Keys to Success

Metadata
GIS Data Consolidation
GIS Standards
Collaboration & Cooperation

Useful Links

The Kentucky Geography Network: <http://kygeonet.ky.gov/>
The Commonwealth Map: <http://kygisserver.ky.gov/tcmbase/>
Kentucky Weather: <http://kygeonet.ky.gov/kyweather/>
Kentucky Demographics: <http://kygeonet.ky.gov/kydemographics/>
Proposed Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Projects: <http://kygeonet.ky.gov/watprop/findit.htm>
Kentucky Six Year Highway Plan: http://kytcgis.ky.gov/syp_active/viewer.htm
Kentucky's Hunting & Fishing Sites: <http://kygeonet.ky.gov/kdfwr/viewer.htm>
Kentucky State Parks: <http://kygeonet.ky.gov/kyparks/viewer.htm>
KGS GeoPortal: <http://kgs.uky.edu/kgsmmap/KGSGeoPortal/KGSGeoPortal.asp>
Kentucky Adventure Tourism: <http://kygeonet.ky.gov/kyadventure/>